

selecting a pattern for the placement of laser beam pulses on the exposed surface of the cornea;

the selected pattern comprising at least three points, the points being spaced apart from each other;

applying a first excimer laser pulse to the exposed corneal surface at the first point in the pattern, applying a second excimer laser pulse immediately subsequent to the first laser pulse to the exposed corneal surface at the second point in the pattern, and applying a third excimer laser pulse immediately subsequent to the second laser pulse to the exposed corneal surface at the third point in the pattern;

the laser pulses ablating an area of tissue from the exposed surface of the cornea;

the ablated area of tissue from the second pulse being spaced apart from the ablated area of tissue from the first pulse; and

the area of ablated tissue from the third pulse being spaced apart from the area of ablated tissue of the second pulse.

11. **(twice amended)** A method for correcting vision comprising:

selecting a pattern for the placement of laser beam pulses on an eye;

the selected pattern comprising at least three points; the points being spaced apart from each other;

applying a first excimer laser pulse to the corneal surface of the eye at the first point in the pattern, applying a second excimer laser pulse immediately subsequent to the first

laser pulse to the corneal surface at the second point in the pattern, and applying a third  
excimer laser pulse immediately subsequent to the second laser pulse to the corneal surface  
at the third point in the pattern;

*etc.*  
the laser pulses ablating an area of tissue from the cornea of the eye;

the ablated area of tissue from the second pulse being spaced apart from the  
ablated area of tissue from the first pulse; and

the area of ablated tissue from the third pulse being spaced apart from the area  
of ablated tissue of the second pulse.